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agriculture down to maybe five or six hundred feet. That's not saltwater. So you have to plug an oil well so that those two different "stratas" of water do not contaminate the surface water. So the matter of plugging an oil well is a real technical matter. Costs somewhere between four to seven thousand dollars to do this, which is largely the expense of special trucks with special equipment that go out and force this concrete down a hole or down a pipe that may be a mile deep, so it's an expensive operation. And if you have oil wells that are nonproductive and have been abandoned and maybe a company that's gone broke, you've got to have a fund to make certain that this is done. It is not a question of whether a water well in a pasture needs to be plugged or not. I think that is a problem that needs to be addressed, but the technical difference is considerable. So I would, while I appreciate Senator Beutler's concern, and actually I share his concern about the plugging of water wells, that matter was not dealt with at the hearing and certainly is beyond the scope and jurisdiction of the Oil and Gas Commission to administer. So I would...I would oppose his amendment and ask that we confine this bill to the specific technical problems that are faced in the oil industry. Now just a few words in response to Senator Coordsen. As I say, a stripper well is one that produces maybe two, three, five barrels of oil a day. A barrel is worth about \$8 now. At one time it got as high as \$40. Well, it costs maybe 40 or 50 dollars to pump an oil well for fuel and for the man to go out and supervise it and turn it on and turn it off and that type of thing. So if you've got a well that's producing three barrels a day at \$8, that's \$25. That won't pay the expense of even operating it. So what most companies and operators do is they...they just shut the well down. They just turn it into an inactive shut-in well and they may leave it that way for...for years until...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR MATZKE: ...the oil is needed and the price goes up. And this is a matter that the market regulates without any difficulty because it's up to the owner and operator of the well to determine whether they're going to find it nonproductive or not. We're not...none of these wells are being abandoned, which may ultimately have economic value to the oil company and to the